

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

The Internet is the last bastion of free speech in this country, perhaps anywhere.

The principle of free speech is that I, or anyone, can go out to my sidewalk, put down a soapbox, and start talking. Barring certain clear legal exceptions like slander, I can say anything I want. Anything.

Where does democracy go if I have to pay to have my say? Or even worse, if they won't even give me my space for my soapbox, since what I say is bad for business in their opinion? Do you really want AOL Time-Warner to trump the Constitution, the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of government so easily without even a whimper? Can you face the ghosts of our forefathers? Or the enslaved faces of our children? Get real: where's your conscience?

The time has come to decide between principle and money. I'll take principle. Will you?